

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 MCT-01
IO-13 SY-05 /071 W
-----081622Z 117072 /43

O R 081532Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 586
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 4418

USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, SP
SUBJECT: POLITICAL VIOLENCE

REF: MADRID 4343

1. THE BOMB COUNT OVER LAST WEEKEND ULTIMATELY TOTALED 15,
BUT NO INJURIES WERE REPORTED. A NUMBER OF DEVICES WERE
DISCOVERED AND REMOVED, INCLUDING A LARGE SHRAPNEL BOMB
FOUND BY A ROAD NEAR BILBAO AND AN APPARENT BOMB IN THE
CATHEDRAL OF SANTIAGO L COMPOSTELA.

2. MANY OF THE BASQUE PRISONERS HAVE BEEN MOVED WITHIN
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THE PRISON SYSTEM RECENTLY, AND THERE ARE CONFLICTING
REPORTS ON THE NUMBER (ROUGHLY 14-16) STILL INCARCERATED.
HOWEVER, MADRID DAILY "INFORMACIONES" REPORTS THAT ALL THE
CONVICTED BASQUE PRISONERS HAVE NOW BEEN RELEASED,
AND THAT THOSE AWAITING TRIAL SHOULD BE RELEASED BY
JUNE 8.

3. REGARDING THE YBARRA CASE, MADRID DAILY "EL PAIS" REPORTS THAT THE FAMILY HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE KIDNAPPERS SEVERAL TIMES, AND THAT RANSOM OFFERS AND DEMANDS IN THE RANGE OF 100-500 MILLION PESETAS (\$1.4-\$7 MILLION) HAVE BEEN EXCHANGED. THE ARREST IN FRANCE OF ETA LEADER "APALA," WHILE POTENTIALLY HOPEFUL FOR YBARRA'S RELEASE, HAS DISRUPTED CONTACTS WITH THE KIDNAPPERS. THE GOS HAS REPORTEDLY REQUESTED EXTRADITION OF "APALA," BELIEVED TO BE THE LEADER OF THE ETA POLITICAL-MILITARY WING SPECIAL COMMANDOS, RESPONSIBLE FOR THE YBARRA KIDNAPPING AND THE EARLIER CASES OF SRS. ARRASATE AND BERAZADI.

4. THE AMBASSADOR HAD OCCASION TO SPEAK TO LT. GEN. KBANEZ FREIRE (CIVIL GUARD COMMANDER) JUNE 6. IBANEZ WAS IN AN UPBEAT MOOD REGARDING BASQUE PARTICIPATION IN THE NATIONAL ELECTIONS. HE WAS, HOWEVER, NERVOUS AS TO THE OUTCOME OF THE YBARRA KIDNAPPING CASE, GIVEN THE UNPREDICTABLE NATURE OF THE TERRORIST GROUP BEHIND IT.

5. WELL-INFORMED COLUMNIST ABEL HERNANDEZ DISCUSSED THE BASQUE SITUATION IN "INFORMACIONES" JUNE 6, NOTING THAT, WHILE THE POLITICAL CAMPAIGN IS PROCEEDING (2000 MEETINGS LAST WEEKEND THROUGHOUT SPAIN), EXTREMIST GROUPS HOPE TO OBSTRUCT THE ELECTIONS AND CREATE A REVOLUTIONARY SITUATION. HE QUOTED UNNAMED "QUALIFIED SOURCES" THAT THE RECENT ATTACKS ARE AIMED AT PREVENTING THE RELEASE OF REMAINING BASQUE PRISONERS (BY AROUSING MILITARY OPPOSITION), BECAUSE THE EXTREMIST GROUPS FEAR LOSS OF CONFIDENTIAL

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PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR THEIR POSITION IF ALL ARE RELEASED. IDEALLY, THEY HOPE THAT FURTHER GOVERNMENT DELAY IN THE RELEASES WILL PROVOKE STREET ESCALATING STREET VIOLENCE AND A MILITARY INTERVENTION. (COMMENT: SEVERAL BASQUE GROUPS HAVE ANNOUNCED PLANS TO GO AHEAD WITH ANOTHER PRO-AMNESTY WEEK OF DEMONSTRATIONS JUNE 8-JUNE 15, WITH ALL THE ATTENDANT POSSIBILITIES FOR STREET VIOLENCE. IF, AS LATEST REPORTS INDICATE, THE GOS DOES INTEND TO RELEASE ALL REMAINING BASQUE PRISONERS TODAY, THIS MAY BE AVOIDED.)

6. FINALLY, HERNANDEZ SUGGESTED THAT SPANISH INTELLIGENCE SERVICES DO NOT DISMISS THE CHANCES OF A MAJOR CAMPAIGN OF VIOLENCE BETWEEN NOW AND THE JUNE 15, AND THAT "CERTAIN INDICATIONS" REPORTEDLY EXIST OF AN ATTEMPT TO ASSASSINATE A MAJOR NATIONAL POLITICAL FIGURE ON JUNE 13. (COMMENT: THE GOS IS APPARENTLY MOVING TO TAKE SPECIAL SECURITY MEASURES. A HIGH-LEVEL MEETING JUNE 7 OF MILITARY AND CIVILIAN CHIEFS--CHAIRLED BY PRIME

MINISTER SUAREZ--REPORTEDLY AGREED ON CERTAIN STEPS
WHOSE FOCUS, AS REPORTED, IS ON PROTECTING THE PEOPLE'S
RIGHT TO VOTE, ALTHOUGH WE MAY ASSUME SOME SPECIAL
MEASURES TO PROTECT LEADING POLITICIANS ARE ALSO BEING
TAKEN. WHILE THE POSSIBILITY ALWAYS EXISTS THAT AN
ACT OF VIOLENCE AS SUGGESTED BY HERNANDEZ COULD BE
ATTEMPTED, THE EMBASSY HAS NO HARD INFORMATION ON
ANY SUCH UNDERTAKING.) STABLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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SAS ID: 2231594
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POLITICAL VIOLENCE
TAGS: PINT, PINS, SP
To: STATE
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